## **CLAIMS**

- 1. An articulated backplane electronic card retainer, comprising:
  - at least two rigid domains traversing the backplane,
    and
  - flexible domains flanking at least both sides of said rigid domain.
- An articulated backplane electronic card retainer as in claim 1 further comprising at least one card bracket connected to at least one rigid domain for ruggedizing said card retainer.
- A mechanically strengthened articulated flexible backplane system, comprising:
  - at least one bracket for at least a plugged in board, wherein said bracket is connected to a rigid domain of said backplane;
     and
  - a pivot locking together pivotally members of a rigid domain pair.
- 4. A mechanically strengthened articulated flexible backplane system as in claim 3 further including an appended rigid domain per at least one rigid domain, forming a rigid domain pair.

- 5. A mechanically strengthened articulated flexible backplane system as in claim 3 and wherein said system is ruggedized further by having a link member interconnecting two adjacent members of said at least one rigid domain pair.
- 6. A method for ruggedizing an articulated electrical backplane system whereby each rigid domain further includes an appended rigid domain unto which supplementary cards can be plugged in, and wherein at least one of said rigid domains is fitted with brackets, and wherein each rigid domain having an appended rigid domain is interconnected with said appended rigid domain.
- 7. A method for ruggedizing an articulated electrical backplane as in claim 6 whereby each rigid domain further including an appended rigid domain unto which supplementary cards can be plugged in, and wherein each rigid domain having an appended rigid domain is interconnected with another rigid domain having a respective appended rigid domain.